

Message Text

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FOR LOS DEL

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM PORT MORESBY DATED MARCH 29,
1978 SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CANBERRA, JAKARTA, SUVA,
TOKYO, WELINGTON, CINCPAC, HICOMTERPACIS IS REPEATED
TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0438

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, PP

SUBJECT: PAPUA NEW GUINEA DECLARES 200 MILE FISHERIES
JURISDICTION

1. SUMMARY: GPNG HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ON MARCH 31 IT WILL EXTEND
ITS TERRITORIAL SEA FROM THREE TO TWELVE MILES AND ITS
FISHING JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. A PROCLAMATION
DELIMITING THE EXTENDED FISHING ZONE ALSO WILL
BE MADE AND WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 31. REGULATIONS
WILL SOON BE ISSUED REGARDING LICENSING CONDITIONS AND
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FEES. END SUMMARY:

2. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY
CHAN AND ACTING FONMIN MOMIS ANNOUNCED MARCH 28 THAT PNG'S
200 MILE FISHING JURISDICTION WOULD COME INTO OPERATION
ON MARCH 31. JURISDICTION WILL BE EXTENDED BY
BRINGING INTO FORCE THE NATIONAL SEAS ACT, 1977, AND

1977 AMENDMENTS TO THE FISHERIES ACT. A PROCLAMATION DELIMITING THE BOUNDARY OF THE NEW FISHING ZONE, WHICH BORDERS INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA, TTPI AND THE SOLOMONS, WILL ALSO COME INTO OPERATION MARCH 31.

3. ON MARCH 31 PAPUA NEW GUINEA WILL EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL SEA FROM THREE TO TWELVE MILES.

4. RULES FOR FISHING IN NEW 200 MILE ZONE WOULD BE SIMILAR TO THOSE APPLIED IN EXISTING TWELVE MILE FISHING ZONE. NO VESSEL WILL BE ALLOWED TO FISH COMMERCIALY WITHOUT LICENSE ISSUED BY MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY. REGULATIONS UNDER THE FISHERIES ACT WILL BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE A NEW SCALE OF FEES FOR VESSELS TAKING FISH IN THE 200 MILE ZONE AND NOT LANDING THEM IN PNG. GNERALLY, A CONDITION OF THE LICENSES OF SUCH VESSELS WILL BE THAT THEY CHECK INTO A PNG PORT FOR INSPECTION OF CATCH. THE MINISTERS ADDED, "WHERE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OR COMPANIES...CERTAIN FOREIGN VESSELS OR CLASSES OF VESSELS MIGHT BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS REQUIREMENT AND AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF LEVYING CHARGES COULD BE ADOPTED."

5. THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT POLICING THE EXTENDED ZONE WILL STRAIN RESOURCES. WAYS OF IMPROVING THAT CAPABILITY ARE BEING EXAMINED. AS A GENERAL RULE, IT UNCLASSIFIED

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WAS ANNOUNCED, ILLEGAL FISHERS WILL NOT BE WARNED, THEY WILL BE PROSECUTED.

6. THE MINISTERS ALSO STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES WOULD BE OPERATIVE ON MARCH 31.

A) EXISTING LICENSES FOR FISHING IN THE OLD 12 MILE ZONE WOULD REMAIN VALID FOR FISHING IN THE 200 MILES FOR THEIR PERIOD OF ORIGINAL VALIDITY.

B) ENFORCEMENT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST ANY UNLICENSED FOREIGN VESSEL FISHING WITHIN THE 12 MILE LIMIT OR TAKING SEDENTARY (SEABED) SPECIES ANYWHERE IN THE AREA OF THE OFFSHORE SEAS.

C) IN RESPECT OF OTHER AREAS, FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS WILL BE ALLOWED A PERIOD OF GRACE UNTIL 30TH APRIL, 1978, DURING WHICH THEY MUST APPLY FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA LICENSES WHICH, IF ISSUED, WILL BE SUBJECT TO NEW CONDITIONS.

D) AFTER THE GRACE PERIOD, ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST ALL FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS WHICH HAS NOT LODGED APPLICATIONS FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA LICENSES.

E) WHERE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IN RESPECT OF ITS FISHING VESSELS, EXEMPTIONS FROM SOME OF THE GENERAL CONDITIONS MIGHT BE

GIVEN IN RESPECT OF THOSE VESSELS, AND THE AGREED ARRANGEMENTS WOULD APPLY.

F) IN CERTAIN BOUNDARY AREAS, WHERE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY ARE IN PROGRESS, SPECIAL PROCEDURES WOULD APPLY FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD IN RESPECT OF THE VESSELS OF THAT OTHER COUNTRY. THIS PARTICULARLY APPLIED TO AUSTRALIAN VESSELS IN THE TORRES STRAIT AREA, IN RESPECT OF WHICH AREA BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING.

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